

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

Applicants thank Examiner Rodriguez for the indications of allowable matter.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the claim amendments and new claims may be found in the specification, for example, on page 3 lines 6-7, page 6 lines 14-16, page 7, line 20-21, page 9, lines 17-20, claims 8, 9, 12 and 19 and FIGS. 2, 3 and 5 as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 9, 14-17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Shimoda has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. The allowable matter of claim 22 has been incorporated into claim 1. The allowable matter of claim 27 has been incorporated into claim 17. Claims 3, 9, 14-15 and 21 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims, which are now believed to be allowable. Claim 16 has been canceled.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 4, 8, 10 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoda in view of Abbott et al. '249 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 5-7, 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoda in view of Cheung has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoda in view of Izumi et al. '673 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-8, 10-11, 18, 20, 23 and 24 depended, either directly or indirectly, from the independent claims, which are now believed to be allowable. As such, the presently pending invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter of claim 12 has been incorporated into newly presented claim 28.

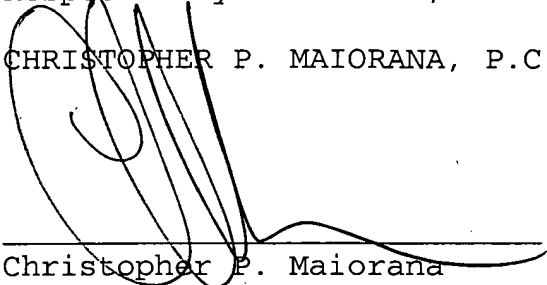
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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